



The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol. 5, Issue 2
February, 2004

Calendar of Events

Mar. 1, 6:30pm	4-H Lawn Mowing Project, St. Luke's Methodist Church
Mar. 2, 9-12am	Master Gardener Training, Norfolk Master Gardeners, Norfolk Botanical Garden
Mar. 6, 9-3:00pm	Horticultural Extravaganza, St. Luke's Methodist Church
Mar 13, 9:00am	Spring Home Gardener Program, Yorktown Public Library
Mar. 15, 7-8pm	Master Gardener Winter Lecture Series, Kingston Parish House, Mathews County
Mar. 16, 9:30-11:30am	Monthly Programming meeting and Quarterly meeting
Mar. 8, 6:30pm	4-H Lawn Mowing Project, St. Luke's Methodist Church
Mar. 15, 6:30pm	4-H Lawn Mowing Project, St. Luke's Methodist Church
Mar. 20, 9:00am	Spring Home Gardener Program, Yorktown Public Library
Mar. 22, 6:30pm	4-H Lawn Mowing Project, St. Luke's Methodist Church
Mar. 27, 9:00am	Spring Home Gardener Program, Yorktown Public Library
Mar. 29, 6:30pm	4-H Lawn Mowing Project, St. Luke's Methodist Church
Apr. 3, 9am	Spring Home Gardener Program, Yorktown Public Library
Apr. 7, 6:30pm	On Site Plant Health Clinic
Apr. 20, 6:30pm	On Site Plant Health Clinic
Apr. 28, 6:30pm	On Site Plant Health Clinic

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940 or Dianne Taylor at 868-4090, e-mail: taylors@exis.net. The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication, please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

Master Gardener Mission Statement

Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.

www.ext.vt.edu

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless, of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Notes from Jim

This year I will be working closely with the program coordinators to develop extensive notebooks that outline step-by-step activities that accomplish specific programs. These will be used to help next year's coordinators to follow their leadership. These notebooks will be very helpful for program continuity.

Remember that volunteering and helping to deliver Virginia Cooperative Extension programs is half the job. Record your hours. Please plan now to catch your hours up by February. Jim submits a report to the county for an April report to the Board of Supervisors.

We are steps closer to the addition of the step-by-step pruning of Crape Myrtle on the web page. The program is designed to bring you through a decision making set of slides to help promote proper crape myrtle pruning. We will let you know what the web link is when it becomes available.

With this newsletter, the new copy of the programs and activities sheet, and the 2004 Master Gardener Roster is enclosed. Please contact the coordinator of an event directly.

Plan to attend the phone training on Wednesday, February 4. It is open to 5 attendees and it is designed to acquaint the volunteer with responding to horticultural calls, research information, and a familiarize volunteers with office procedures. Call 890-4940 to register.

As a point of information, Virginia Cooperative Extension has submitted the Critical Staffing Initiative (CSI) as a budget amendment to the State budget. The CSI is an amendment that seeks funds to support Cooperative Funding in local units that were hit hard during the reduction in staff in 2002. It is being met with optimism by the General Assembly. Thank you for your continued support.



The 2004 Maymont Flower Show

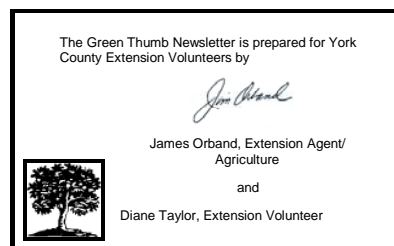
Our group will receive a one-hour early admission at 8 am to the 2004 Maymont Flower Show on Thursday, February 19th. This means we will be admitted one hour before opening to the public. We have gotten one, and possibly two, county vans to transport some of us. You can meet the van at the parking lot near the York County Extension office to see if space is available, drive yourself or car-pool. You must be at the door for admission before 8 am with ticket in hand. If you miss the 8 am admission, you will not be admitted until 9 am. Please determine before leaving when your driver intends to return home. The show goes on until 8 pm.

Tickets can be purchased at McDonald Garden Center in Hampton or Cooke's Gardens in Williamsburg. They cost \$12 and you may want to get them early since tickets have been known to run out. If you have not received this year's Maymont brochure, please visit www.maymont.org to learn about speakers, programs, and other elements of the show.

Pam Harper, author of many gardening books and a York County gardener, will be speaking at 2:30 pm. If you want to hear her, you probably should reserve a seat. Limited advance reservations are available for \$5. Reservations are accepted through Feb. 17th on a space-available basis. Call (804) 358-7166, ext. 310. Other speakers and programs will be listed in your brochure or on the web at www.maymont.org.

Please contact me at 868-8646 if you want to go. We have 20 members signed up. This is a wonderful opportunity to actually get in an hour early and see the exhibits.

Eleanor Hill





2004 Pruning Team

We held an Advanced Pruning Training on January 10th and trained 28 MGs from York and the surrounding counties.

We still need volunteers to perform duties as leads and assistants for the upcoming Pruning Clinics listed below:

Leads Needed:

5 Feb 04, Thurs, 9:00-12:00, James City County Master Gardener Training

14 Feb 04, Sat, 10:00-12:00, Woodlake Crossing Subdivision (Tabb)

21 Feb 04, Sat, 10:00-12:00, Upper York County (Country Club Acres)

Leads & Assistants Needed:

2 Mar 04, Sat, 9:00-12:00, Norfolk Master Gardeners @ Norfolk Botanical Gardens

?? Sep 04 - 2004 Peninsula Master Gardener Training

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these clinics, please contact Janine Casey at 865-1567 or Clare Britcher at 867-7970.



2004 Horticultural Extravaganza

The Horticultural Extravaganza will be held on Saturday, March 6th, from 9:00-3:00, at St. Luke's Methodist Church. The doors will open at 8:15 for registration. We had our initial planning meeting on January 9th and thanks to the tremendous volunteer spirit of many YCMGs, we are off to a terrific start.

We are still looking for a few more volunteers to serve as committee members. If you are interested in volunteering your time, there are many diverse areas to choose from. Please select from the list of committees below and contact the chairperson directly. The committee chairs are as follows:

Tickets/Registration: Beth Saunders

Facilities: Trudy White

Copying: Dan Hawley

Lunch: Evelyn Parker

Moderators: Karen Ward

Evaluators: Martha Wilkins

Finance: Julie Rolston

Equipment: Jim Robertson

Posters: Lily Lach

Hospitality: Judy Lange

Exhibitors: Clare Britcher

The Horticultural Extravaganza will continue to cost \$12.00 per person even with an increase in the price of lunch. However, it was necessary to make the following changes:

Speakers - lunches will be free

Exhibitors - first person's lunch is free, second person's lunch is \$8.00

Other YCMGs (moderators, helpers and staff) - lunch is \$4.00

If you have any other questions, please contact this year's coordinator, Janine Casey, at 865-1567.



Home Gardener Program

The Home Gardener Program is a four consecutive Saturday program which gives the participant a comprehensive amount of information on gardening. There is no volunteer commitment to Extension. This program is a hybrid program to allow the workforce the convenience to attend this educational program. Please pass the word to your friends, your Homeowners Associations, your co-workers that this opportunity exists. They can sign up by calling 890-4940 or go to www.yorkcounty.gov/vce and go to "Upcoming Events". Master Gardeners are not recommended to sign up for the course but you are welcome to volunteer, call Elle Betts, 890-6107.



Master Gardener Winter Lecture Series

The Mathews Master Gardeners will hold their annual free Winter Lecture Series with programs Feb. 21 and March 15.

Saturday afternoon, February 21, from 3-4 PM will be the time of our second lecture entitled OUTSTANDING ANNUALS. The presenter, Dr. Robert Lyons, is the Director of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University.

A TROPICAL GARDEN WITH SUMMER BULBS will be our final lecture on Monday, March 15, from 7-8 PM. Brent Heath, from Brent and Becky's Bulbs of Gloucester will be our speaker.

The location for the lecture series will be at the Kingston Parish House on Main St. in Mathews County. The lectures are free and the public is invited. A donation of a non-perishable food item for the food pantry is appreciated. The Mathews Master Gardeners will serve refreshments following each lecture. Details about each talk will be in the Gazette Journal the week before the scheduled lecture or call the VA Tech Extension Office at (804) 725-7196.



YCMG Lanyards

All "seasoned" YCMGs have received a York County Master Gardener lanyard. The Extension Office purchased them for us. So wear it with pride and enjoy this special token for a job well done. YCMG trainees will receive their lanyards after they have volunteered 50 hours.

Evelyn Parker



"MONARCH MAGIC"

Gary Noel Ross, Ph.D., author, retired professor, natural history photographer, lecturer and butterfly biologist, will be guest speaker at the Butterfly Society of Virginia meeting on Sunday, February 29, 2004, at 2:00 p.m., in the Auditorium of the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

Dr. Ross' talk, "Monarch Magic," will feature an introduction to the historical world of the monarch and then conclude with a visual presentation showing various aspects of the butterfly--including its overwintering grounds and its trans-Gulf migratory route. Dr. Ross, who will have traveled to Mexico during January to see the butterflies, will also give an update on the monarchs' present situation after the devastating winter 2002 freeze. The Butterfly Society meetings are free and open to the public. Members of the Butterfly Society or Norfolk Botanical Garden with membership cards will be admitted to the Garden at no charge; regular admission fees to the Garden will apply for non-members.



On-Site Plant Health Clinic

The On-Site Plant Health Clinic, formerly known as the Landscape Diagnostic Clinic, involves citizens in a hands-on educational program in their neighborhood and teaches correct horticultural practices for their landscapes. Extension staff will present a brief review of existing county-wide problems and then walk around with residents to observe, diagnose and recommend remedies for landscape problems. A Question and Answer period will close the clinic.

DATES: April 7, 20, 28
May 6, 12, 20

TIME: 6:30-7:45 pm

LOCATION: York County – various landscapes

SCHEDULE: Will be posted by March 2004

To assist with clinics and/or to recommend sites, please contact Kathi Hebert, 766-2492 or flwrladi@aol.com

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We're on the Web!

www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

February 2004

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3 9:30 Peninsula MG Training planning meeting, Northside Church of Christ	4 9:30 Using the resources in the office training, Ext office Registration for 4-H Camp begins	5 9:00 Master Gardener Training for James City County MGs	6	7 10:00 Pruning Clinic--Grafton True Value 2 nd Annual Land- owners Woods & Wildlife Conf., Charlottesville
8	9	10 9:30 Monthly Programming meeting, St. Luke's	11	12	13	14 10:00 Pruning Clinic – Elm Lake Way, Woodlake, Tabb
15	16 Office Closed – Presidents Day	17	18	19 8:00 2004 Maymont Flower Show	20 Commercial Pesticide Recertification, Chesapeake, 382-6348	21 10:00 Pruning Clinic–Pebble Beach,Country ClubAcres 3:00 Winter Lecture Series Deadline: 4-H Lawn Mowing Project
22	23	24	25	26	27 Commercial Pesticide Recertification, VA Beach, 427-4769	28 10:00 Pruning Clinic – Ken Matthews Landscape Nursery
29						